

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The status of the claims are summarized below.

Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 29-31 are new in this Amendment.

5 Claims 1-31 are pending in the application after entry of this Amendment.

Amendments to the Specification

The Office has indicated that the specification does not contain the required reference to the prior non-provisional application from which a priority benefit is
10 claimed. As presented in the Amendments to the Specification section above, the specification has been amended to contain the appropriate reference in the first sentence following the title.

Since the present application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) before November 29, 2000, the time period for submitting the reference to the prior non-provisional
15 application as provided in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) is not applicable to the present application. Therefore, the Applicant is entitled to amend the specification to provide the reference to the prior non-provisional application without submission of the petition, surcharge, and statement of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).

20 Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been objected to because of an informality. The Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "A method for ..." rather than "Method for ..." Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the objection to claim 1.

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Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 11-17, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin (U.S. Patent No. 5,893,077) in view of Schneier (*Applied Cryptography*). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

5 Claims 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin and Schneier as applied to claims 1-4, and further in view of Fischer (U.S. Patent No. 5,390,247). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

 Claims 8-10 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin and Schneier as applied to claims 1 and 11, and further in view
10 of Chaplin (U.S. Patent No. 5,315,655). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

 Claims 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin in view of Fischer and Schneier as applied to claim 22, and further in view of Chaplin. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

 With respect to independent claims 1, 11, and 22, the Office has identified Griffin
15 as disclosing serialization of an object, and Schneier as disclosing development of a signature through encryption. On this basis, the Office has asserted that Griffin and Schneier combine to render each of claims 1, 11, and 22 obvious. The Applicant respectfully submits that the mere fact that Griffin and Schneier can be combined does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the cited art of record also suggests
20 the desirability of the combination.

 Griffin discloses an event generation and collection system for a distributed network that includes an event source for generating event objects and an event collector for gathering objects. Griffin discloses that event objects stored in an event object queue are serialized to create a binary representation of the event object in a memory buffer.
25 Then, according to Griffin, conversion routines are run on the event objects so that the data that they carry can be converted to a format that is useful by other processes in the

distributed network. In contrast to the presently claimed invention, Griffin does not disclose or suggest associating a signature with the serialized object or that such an association be maintained.

5 Schneier discloses signature and encryption methods for digital data. However, in contrast to the presently claimed invention, Schneier does not fairly teach or suggest associating a signature with a serialized live object or that such an association be maintained.

 With respect to claims 1, 11, and 22, there is no suggestion or motivation, either explicitly or implicitly, in either Griffin or Schneier to have combined their teachings to
10 arrive at the present invention. The Office has admitted "Griffin does not say that a signature is associated with the serialized object or that the association between the two is maintained." The Applicants respectfully add that Griffin also fails to suggest that a signature be associated with the serialized object or that such an association be maintained. Furthermore, Schneier does not teach or suggest associating a signature with
15 a snapshot of a live object and maintaining the association between the snapshot of the live object and the associated signature. To establish obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, there must be some teaching, suggestion, or motivation in the cited art to combine the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention.

 In accordance with the foregoing arguments, the Applicant respectfully submits
20 that Griffin and Schneier cannot be appropriately combined to render obvious the combined features of each of independent claims 1, 11, and 22. Furthermore, since claims 2-10, 12-21, and 23-28 ultimately depend from one of claims 1, 11, and 22, the Applicant submits that each of claims 2-10, 12-21, and 23-28 are patentable over the cited art of record for at least the same reasons as provided for their respective independent claim.

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New Claims

The Office is requested to note that the Applicant has added new claims 29-31 in the present Amendment. The Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 29-31 are patentable over the cited art of record.

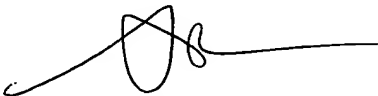
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In view of the foregoing, the Applicants kindly request that the Office withdraw the rejections of claims 1-28. The Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims (i.e., claims 1-31) are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a notice of allowance is requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6900, ext. 6914. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP043C). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

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Respectfully submitted,
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